

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047671

FOL REPEAT SINAI 100 ACTION SECSTATE FEB 25.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINAI 0100

SSM FOR KONTOS FROM THORNE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, UN

SUBJECT: VISITS BY CODELS AND DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO THE
BUFFER ZONE

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH GEN SIILASUVO HE HAS INDICATED
CONCERN AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WILL BE REQUESTS FOR
VISITS BY CONGRESSMEN AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO
THE BUFFER ZONE TO VISIT THE SFM BOTH FROM ISRAEL AND EGYPT.
HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ALSO THAT SOME OF THESE VISITS WOULD
INCLUDE REQUESTS TO CROSS THE BUFFER ZONE FROM ONE COUNTRY
TO THE OTHER.

2. REFERRING TO EGYPTIAN SENSITIVITY CONCERNING THE AMERICAN
PRESENCE IN THE SINAI, GENERAL SIILASUVO SAID THAT HE FELT
THAT, INITIALLY AT LEAST, REQUEST FOR VISITS BY CODELS
SHOULD BE CLEARED WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM. I ASKED
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IF HE FELT THAT THIS WAS PREFERABLE TO VETTING THE ENTRY OF THE

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS, NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF U.S. NATIONALITY ALONE, TO THE BUFFER ZONE WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS. HIS REPLY WAS THAT HE STILL FELT THAT THE FIRST FEW OF SUCH VISITORS WHOULD BE CLEARED THROUGH UN NEW YORK.

3. GENERAL SIILASUVO THEN REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT DISTINGUISHED VISITORS WOULD REQUEST PASSAGE FROM ONE SIDE OF THE BUFFER ZONE TO THE OTHER. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CANADIAN AND AUSTRALIAN MINISTERS OF DEFENSE REQUESTED SUCH PASSAGE AND THAT HE HAD DENIED IT REQUIRING THEM TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY FROM WHICH THEY ENTERED THE BUFFER ZONE. WHEN I ASKED HIM ABOUT A FINNISH COL. WHO HAD RECENTLY MADE SUCH A TRIP HE SAID THAT OFFICERS OF THE RANK OF COL. AND BELOW HAVE ON OCCASION VISITED THEIR NATIONAL CONTINGENTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES AND THAT ON SUCH OCCASIONS HE HAS AUTHORIZED THEM TO BE ATTACHED TEMPORARILY TO THE UNIT VISITED AND "ONE OR TWO" HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO MAKE THE PASSAGE FROM ONE COUNTRY TO THE OTHER. HE DID NOT THINK THAT HE COULD EXTEND THIS TO DISTINGUISHED VISITORS SUCH AS CONGRESSMEN AND OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE VISITING THE SFM BECAUSE OF INEVITABLE PRESS COVERAGEM

4. GEN SIILASUVO CONCLUDED BY ASKING FOR WASHINGTON'S REACTION. THORNE

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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